

**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of this Application is requested Claims 1, 2, 4 and 8 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadaba U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2004/0215480 in view of Brookner et al., U.S. Patent number 7,120,610.

Kadaba discloses the following in paragraph 0053.

[0053] "The shipper's computer system 20 has software distributed by the first carrier making it configured to record the PLD information necessary to sort, meter and ship each of the packages. In one example, the computer system 20 of the shipper 11 is connectable over the network 21 to a web server (not shown) of the first carrier computer system 22. The web server of the first carrier computer system is configured to send data across the network to display web pages on the shipper computer system 20. Alternatively, the shipper 11 could be directly equipped with software downloaded from the first carrier computer system 22, or sent on media by the first carrier for installation on the shipper computer system 20. "

Kadaba discloses the following in paragraph 0098.

[0098] "Billing by the second carrier is implemented by a portion the second carrier computer system 23 which is connected in communication with the verification system 43 and is configured to receive the daily manifest therefrom. Also connected in communication with the second carrier computer system 23 is an escrow account 229 (set up at initiation of the system 10) from which the second carrier can withdraw funds for payment of the fees associated with each daily manifest. In this manner, the second carrier always has immediate access to funds once it has received and completed auditing of the daily manifest."

Kadaba utilizes a manifest to bill the second carrier.

The Examiner states the following in page 3 of the Patent Office Action.

"Kadaba does not disclose charging a sender's meter and transmitting the funds charged to the meter to a meter data center; and transmitting from the meter data sender funds attributable to the carrier. However, Brookner et al discloses the meter data center communicates with sender franking machine to obtain transaction records to account for postage consumption [col 6, lines 7-24]. Brookner et al further discloses the meter data center initiates payment to a first carrier by transmitting the postage franked by the meter to a settlement center to initiate funds If transfer to a carrier [col 8, lines 6-11]."

Brookner discloses the following in Column 6 lines 7-47.

"FIG. 5 illustrates the postage finance arrangement in accordance with the invention where data center 503 communicates with franking systems 100 and 505-1 through 505-N to, among other things, obtain therefrom franking transaction records from time to time to account for their postage consumptions, respectively, where N represents an integer greater than or equal to one. In this illustrative embodiment, each of franking systems 505-1 through 505-N is structurally identical to system 100 described above. Data center 503 comprises computer system 507 which is capable of communicating data with selected ones of franking systems 100 and 505-1 through 505-N via communication connections established by modem pool 509. These connections may be, e.g., dial-up connections, Internet connections, etc. The data communications between data center 503 and the franking systems may be in accordance with the protocol] disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,715:164 issued Feb. 3, 1998 to Liechti et al.

In this illustrative embodiment, computer system 507 initiates communications with franking systems 100 and 505-1 through 505-N periodically to obtain the respective transaction records, from which the postage consumptions for the period is derived in a manner described below. Such postage consumptions are then accounted for by charging same to the accounts associated with the franking systems, where such accounts may be checking accounts, debit accounts, credit accounts, revolving credit accounts, profunded accounts, escrow accounts, etc.,

held by one or more financial institutions. To that end, system 507 maintains database 540 therein, which contains financial account records concerning the respective franking systems served by data center 503. Alternatively, database 540 may be remote from data center 503.

FIG. 6 illustrates the format of each financial account record in database 540. In this instance, each franking system is identified by a PSD serial number in field 603 pre-assigned to its PSD. Field 605 contains intonation concerning the financial account associated with the franking system, which includes a financial account number, and data identifying the financial institution with which the account is maintained."

Brookner discloses the following in Column 8, line 6-17.

"In response, settlement system 565 causes transfer of funds in the amount of the franked postage from the financial account associated with franking system 100 to a predetermined postal authority account. System 565 then sends to postal authority computer 550 a message indicating the completion of the funds transfer.

Postal authority computer 550 may analyze and/or audit the franking transaction records of franking system 100 for any reporting cycle, which were forwarded thereto by data center 503, to verify whether the amount of the funds transferred to the postal authority account matches the postage consumed by system 100 in that cycle."

Brookner discloses only one postal authority i.e. postal authority computer 550.

The art cited by the Examiner does not disclose or anticipate the following steps of Claim 1 as amended, namely transmitting from the meter data center to a first carrier meter payment center located in the first country the funds attributable to the first and second carriers; and

transmitting from the first meter payment data center to the second meter payment data center located in the second country the funds attributable to the second carrier.

The art cited by the examiner does not disclose the payment of funds to a first carrier meter payment center located in a first country and the transfer of funds to a second meter payment center located in a second country.

Claims 3 and 5 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadaba [US 20045/0215480] in view of Brookner et al [US 7,120,610] as applied to claim 2 and 4 above, and further in view of Konick [US 2003/0115162].

Konick discloses the following in paragraph 0167.

[0167] "In the preferred embodiment of the V-STAMP Shipper shown in FIG. 7 (front) and FIG. 8 (back), the originator can designate the special shipping services desired on the V-STAMP Shipper. Another embodiment of the invention would be to have separate, distinct, V-STAMP Shippers for each special shipping service required. In either embodiment, the V-STAMP Shipper is used in conjunction with the V-STAMP label to uniquely and securely identify the originator of the package or mail, and designate an existing account against which the cost of the special shipping services designated are charged."

While Konick may charge a sender for special handling of a mail item. In addition to the arguments set forth above. Konick does not disclose or anticipate charging a second carrier for the funds attributable to the costs of the second carrier as claimed in Claim 5.

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kadaba [US 20045/0215480J in view of Brookner et al [US 7,120,610J as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Wade [US 2003/0009351J.

Wade discloses the following in paragraph 0030.

[0030] "The invention will now be described in connection with attached FIG. 1. For ease of discussion, FIG. 1 illustrates two domains. However, the invention can be used in connection with many more than two domains. Depending on how the invention is 'implemented, each domain may be a separate country, a separate region within a country, the territory of a public or private carrier, or a carrier's customer base (which could overlap with other carrier's customer bases). As illustrated in the upper left-hand corner of FIG. 1, a sender 100 in Domain 1 transmits a parcel using a Carrier 1 110 associated with Domain 1. Most likely, the Carrier 1 will scan the parcel upon receipt from the sender and upon passing-off 120 the parcel to Carrier 2 130. However, for ease of discussion, scans by the originating carrier are not illustrated in FIG. 1."

Wade discloses the following in paragraph 0034.

[0034] "The elapsed time data of Carrier 1 and Carrier 2 are then sent to a central processor which processes the data in accordance with a set of rules, thereby determining a periodic balancing payment 300. Alternatively, the processor could simply calculate a penalty for each country to pay."

Wade discloses the following in paragraph 0039.

[0039] "FIG. 2 tracks processing of a mailpiece on an international delivery. The process begins with step 400 when a customer mails a mailpiece. When received by the delivery service, in step 410, the mailpiece will undergo an acceptance scan, Scan A. The initial data related to the mailpiece is inputted at that point. The mailpiece next passes into a processing center, step 420, where it undergoes Scan G, an enroute processing scan.

Next, step 430, the mailpiece embarks from its originating country. At this step the mailpiece undergoes a B Scan and a C Scan. These scans relate to processing in the exchange office and assignment to transportation. Step 440 is international transport. At Step 450, the mailpiece is received by the foreign country. D Scan records receipt of the mail piece at that point. Step 460 relates to the mail piece passing

through customs Scans E and F record entry into and out of customs. This information is important to the present invention as time in customs, which is beyond the control of the delivery service, is not included in the calculation of in-country processing time. Step 470 shows the mailpiece being handled at a processing plant. Another G Scan, enroute processing takes place. Step 480 notes the final delivery by the delivery service, the final time the mailpiece is handled by the delivery service. Another Scan G can take place at that point. Finally, in Step 490 the mailpiece is delivered, or delivery is attempted. Scan H corresponds to an attempted delivery. Scan I corresponds to a successful delivery."

While it is true the Wade discloses a system that scans mail when the mail goes from a first domain to a second domain. Wade does not disclose or anticipate transferring funds from the first meter payment data center to the second country meter payment data center when mail is scanned in the second country.

Claims 9 and 10 have been rejected by the Examiner under 25 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Kadaba [US 20045/0215480] in view of Brookner et al [US 7,120,610] as applied to Claim 1 above, and further in view of Wade [US 2003/0009351] and Official Notice.

The Examiner stated the following in pages 6 and 7 of the Office Action.

Furthermore, the Examiner takes Official Notice that it is old and well known at the time of the invention in the postal industry to notify a sender when mail is received at a particular location. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the invention of Kadaba to include the method disclosed by Wade including notifying the sender when the mail arrives in the second country so that the sender knows that the mail was delivered.

Post Offices notify a sender when mail is delivered to a recipient i.e. United States Post Office Return Receipt for Certified and Registered Mail. However to Applicant's knowledge no one notifies a sender when the mail arrives in the second country as claimed in Claim 9.

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In view of the above claims 1-10 are patentable. If the Examiner has any questions would the Examiner please call the undersigned at the telephone number noted below.

Respectfully submitted,



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